

Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-10

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU NIACT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY CONAKRY IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 192132

FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY MOOSE FROM AF HARROP

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, PINT, OVIP, GN

SUBJECT: YOUR MEETING WITH GUINEAN PRESIDENT SEKOU TOURE

BACKGROUND

YOUR VISIT IS THE FIRST BY A HIGH-LEVEL US OFFICIAL SINCE
DAVE NEWSOM STOPPED IN CONAKRY FIVE YEARS AGO. IT
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COMES AT A TIME WHEN SEKOU TOURE IS ATTEMPTING TO RE-
ASSESS GUINEA'S NON-ALIGNMENT AND LESSEN HIS DEPENDENCE
ON THE SOVIET UNION. HE IS DISAPPOINTED BY OUR HESI-
TANT RESPONSE TO HIS OVERTURES TO IMPROVE RELATIONS AND
IS WARY OF OUR HUMAN RIGHTS OBJECTIVES. WHAT HE WANTS
IS A SUBSTANTIALLY INCREASED U.S. CONTRIBUTION, BOTH
PUBLIC AND PRIVATE, TO GUINEA'S ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.

ISSUES/TALKING POINTS

1. COURTESY AND AFRICA GENERAL

GUINEA'S RELATIONS WITH THE SOVIET UNION HAVE COOLED. AFTER MANY YEARS OF ISOLATION TOURE WISHES TO PLAY A LARGER ROLE IN AFRICAN AFFAIRS. HE HAS TRIED TO PLAY A CONCILIATORY ROLE ON THE SAHARAN QUESTION AND BETWEEN

LIBYA AND EGYPT. TOURE'S SPEECH AT THE OAU SUMMIT FOCUSED ON THE NEED FOR AFRICAN STATES TO DEVELOP TRULY NON-ALIGNED POSITIONS SO THAT AFRICA MIGHT SOLVE ITS INTERNAL PROBLEMS WITHOUT RESORT TO FOREIGN INTERVENTION. TOURE ALSO ATTEMPTED AT OAU TO PRESS SOMALIA/ETHIOPIA MEDIATION. -- WE ARE PLEASED WITH THE IMPROVEMENT IN US/GUINEAN RELATIONS SINCE PRIME MINISTER BEAVOGUT'S VISIT TO THE US IN JUNE 1977.

-- CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR TRAVELS AND THE NORMALIZATION OF GUINEA'S RELATIONS WITH ITS NEIGHBORS.

-- YOUR REMARKS TO THE OTHER AFRICAN CHIEFS OF STATE AT KHARTOUM CONCERNING THE ENHANCEMENT OF TRUE NON-ALIGNMENT IN AFRICA WERE WELL REPORTED AND RECEIVED IN THE US.

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--WHAT'S YOUR APPRAISAL OF THE KHARTOUM SUMMIT AND THE PROSPECTS FOR OAU MEDIATION OF OUTSTANDING AFRICAN DISPUTES SUCH AS THE SAHARAN WAR AND LIBYA/CHAD CONFLICT.

-- GIVE A RUNDOWN OF OUR EFFORTS TO ACHIEVE NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENTS IN NAMIBIA AND RHODESIA.

2. HUMAN RIGHTS

GUINEA'S HUMAN RIGHTS PROBLEMS CENTER ON THE CONTINUED DETENTION OF POLITICAL PRISONERS. THE EMBASSY HAS NOTED THAT SEVERAL RECENT RELEASES REDUCE THE TOTAL OF POLITICAL DETAINEES TO CONSIDERABLY LESS THAN 1,000, ALTHOUGH AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL CLAIMS (WRONGLY IN OUR VIEW), THERE ARE STILL 3 TO 4,000. RELEASES ARE EXPECTED TO CONTINUE. DURING A JULY 21 LUNCHEON HOSTED BY BILL HARROP AT THE DEPARTMENT, GOG MINISTER OF DOMAIN FOR EDUCATION AND CULTURE MAMADI KEITA STATED THAT ALTHOUGH OUR CONCEPTIONS OF 'HUMAN RIGHTS' WERE SOMEWHAT DIFFERENT, THE SUBJECT IS IMPORTANT AND WILL BE A PRIORITY AGENDA ITEM FOR DISCUSSION AT THE NEXT CONGRESS OF THE PDG (OFFICIAL PARTY). IN LATE MARCH, MINISTER OF DOMAIN FOR ECONOMY AND FINANCE ISMAEL TOURE PROMISED PAT DERIAN THAT AMNESTY AND NATIONAL RECONCILIATION WOULD BE CARRIED OUT IN GUINEA. THE RECENT ICRC VISIT TO CONAKRY LAID THE GROUNDWORK FOR GOG ADHERENCE TO CERTAIN OF THE GENEVA HUMAN RIGHTS CONVENTIONS, ESTABLISHMENT OF A LOCAL RED CROSS CHAPTER,

AND ANOTHER ICRC MISSION TO VISIT GUINEAN PRISON FACILITIES.

-- THERE IS STILL A SIZABLE INTEREST IN THE UNITED STATES, BOTH IN GOVERNMENT AND PRIVATE ORGANIZATIONS, AS TO

THE DEPTH AND DURABILITY OF CURRENT IMPROVEMENTS IN GUINEAN HUMAN RIGHTS CONDITIONS.

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-- WE HAVE BEEN ENCOURAGED BY HUMAN RIGHTS DEVELOPMENTS OVER THE PAST EIGHT MONTHS AND LOOK TO CONTINUED IMPROVEMENT IN ORDER TO COOPERATE MORE CLOSELY WITH GUINEA.

-- HAS THERE BEEN ANY FOLLOWUP WITH THE ICRC REGARDING ANOTHER MISSION TO VISIT PRISON FACILITIES?

3. US ASSISTANCE

PL-480 TITLE I ASSISTANCE TOTALED DOLS 5.5 MILLION IN FY-78 (AF AND EB HAVE PROPOSED IT BE RAISED TO DOLS 8 MILLION IN FY 79). WE PROVIDED DOLS 6 MILLION, OR 18,000 TONS OF TITLE II GRANT RICE LAST YEAR TO MEET AN EMERGENCY REQUIREMENT DUE TO DROUGHT. KEITA'S MAJOR TOPIC OF DISCUSSION WITH AID OFFICIALS IN WASHINGTON LAST WEEK WAS THE AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH PROJECT, WHICH HAS ENCOUNTERED SEVERAL DELAYS IN THE CALL FOR BIDS, AND ORDERING OF MATERIAL FOR CONSTRUCTION OF THE RESEARCH BUILDINGS. THE NEED FOR EXTENDED ENGLISH TRAINING FOR GUINEAN STUDENTS WHO WILL ULTIMATELY STAFF THE STATIONS, AND THE ABSENCE OF A RESIDENT AID OFFICIAL IN CONAKRY HAVE FURTHER COMPLICATED THE PROJECT. KEITA'S MEETINGS WERE CORDIAL. AID WILL ACCELERATE THE PROJECT AND ENCOURAGE THE CONTRACTORS (NAVY, MARSHALL, GORDON) TO DEVOTE THEIR FULL ATTENTION TO IT. CONSIDERATION OF GUINEA'S 10 POINT AGRICULTURAL ASSISTANCE REQUEST HAS BEEN LIMITED TO CIRCULATION OF INFORMATION TO POTENTIAL US INVESTORS, AND AID'S STUDY OF A POSSIBLE ADDITIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROJECT IN FY-80.

-- WE ARE PLEASED TO HAVE BEEN ABLE TO HELP WITH PL-480 TITLE I AND II ASSISTANCE AND APPRECIATE PUBLIC RECOGNITION GIVEN THAT ASSISTANCE. WE HOPE THIS YEAR'S HARVEST WILL BE GOOD.

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-- WE ARE DOING OUR BEST TO ADVANCE THE SCHEDULE FOR THE AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH PROJECT. MINISTER KEITA'S DISCUSSIONS WITH AID OFFICIALS IN WASHINGTON SHOULD SPEED IMPLEMENTATION.

4. US INVESTMENT

THERE HAVE BEEN NO SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENTS IN THE STATUS OF THE DABOLA (REYNOLDS) AND MIFERGUI (US STEEL) PROJECTS SINCE ISMAEL TOURE'S VISIT IN MARCH. IN 1977 EXIM BANK WAS UNABLE TO ESTABLISH A FINDING OF REASONABLE ASSURANCE OF REPAYMENT FOR FINANCING OF A BOEING AIRCRAFT AS

AVAILABLE DATA INDICATED THAT GUINEA WAS NOT CREDIT WORTHY. WHEN MINISTER OF ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL DOMAIN ISMAEL TOURE CAME TO WASHINGTON IN MARCH HE HAD DISCUSSIONS WITH EXIM IN WHICH HE PROMISED TO FURNISH EXIM BANK WITH UPDATED ECONOMIC INFORMATION PROVIDED EXIM SUBMITTED A LETTER LISTING SPECIFIC DATA DESIRED.

-- NOTE OUR INTEREST IN THE OUTCOME OF REYNOLD'S AND US STEEL'S CONSIDERATION OF INVESTMENT IN GUINEA.

-- EXIM BANK IS STILL AWAITING THE ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL DATA ISMAEL TOURE SAID WOULD BE SUPPLIED. THIS INFORMATION IS ESSENTIAL FOR EXIM BANK TO CONSIDER ANY NEW EXPOSURE IN GUINEA.

-- WE ARE PLEASED US BUSINESS HAS BEEN ABLE TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE GUINEAN ECONOMY THROUGH THE CBG, AND BELIEVE SUCH MIXED ENTERPRISES OFFER AN OPTIMAL VEHICLE FOR GUINEAN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.

5. HIGH LEVEL VISITS

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SEKOU TOURE HAS INVITED PRESIDENT CARTER AND ANDY YOUNG TO VISIT CONAKRY AND HAS LIKEWISE EXPRESSED AN INTEREST IN MEETING WITH THE PRESIDENT IN THE US DURING UNGA. AS THE BILATERAL SCHEDULES FOR MEETINGS BETWEEN FOREIGN CHIEFS OF STATE AND THE PRESIDENT ARE ONLY IN THE PRELIMINARY PLANNING STAGES, WE DO NOT WISH TO RAISE AT THIS TIME ANY EXPECTATION THAT SUCH A MEETING WOULD BE POSSIBLE. AMBASSADOR YOUNG'S TRAVEL PLANS ARE INDEFINITE, ALTHOUGH HE HAS EXPRESSED AN INTEREST IN VISITING CONAKRY.

-- (ONLY IF ASKED) WE CAN MAKE NO COMMITMENT AT THIS TIME. SHOULD PRESIDENT TOURE ATTEND THE UNGA WE WILL MAKE A SPECIAL EFFORT TO ARRANGE APPOINTMENTS WITH SENIOR U.S. OFFICIALS.

5. PATROL BOATS

AMBASSADOR CROSBY RECENTLY INFORMED PRIME MINISTER BEAVOGUI THAT WE COULD NOT PROVIDE BOATS TO GUINEA. A

FRENCH FIRM SIGNED AN AGREEMENT JULY 7 WITH THE GOG TO SUPPLY ONE VESSEL AT A COST OF NEARLY DOLS 2 MILLION. IT IS UNCLEAR WHETHER THE GUINEANS INTEND TO TAKE UP A SOVIET OFFER TO PROVIDE THE GOG WITH PATROL CRAFT. TOURE RAISED THE ISSUE JULY 13, AND ASKED THE AMBASSADOR TO INQUIRE OF WASHINGTON WHETHER THERE WAS NO TYPE OF COASTAL PATROL CRAFT CLASSIFIED AS NON-MILITARY. HE ALSO TOLD CROSBY THAT GUINEA WOULD NOT AGREE TO THE CON-

STRUCTION OF A SOVIET NAVAL FACILITY ON ONE OF THE OFFSHORE ISLANDS.

-- (ONLY IF ASKED) EXPLAIN PRESIDENT CARTER'S COMMITMENT TO CURB ARMS TRANSFERS, AND DESIRE TO CONCENTRATE OUR CONFIDENTIAL

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ASSISTANCE ON MEETING BASIC HUMAN NEEDS.

-- (ONLY IF ASKED) WE WOULD CONSIDER ANY ARMED PATROL BOAT AS MILITARY EQUIPMENT. SOME UNARMED CRAFT, NOT DESIGNED FOR MILITARY PURPOSES NOR MODIFIED TO MOUNT WEAPONS MIGHT BE PURCHASED THROUGH COMMERCIAL CHANNELS FOR USE AS A PATROL CRAFT.

6. U.S.-SOVIET RELATIONS

ALWAYS A MIXTURE OF COMPETITION AND COOPERATION, U.S.-SOVIET RELATIONS ARE PRESENTLY IN A PERIOD WHICH HAS EMPHASIZED OUR DIFFERENCES. RECENTLY, OUR BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP HAS BEEN PARTICULARLY TROUBLED BY THE TRIALS OF SOVIET DISSIDENTS, THE ARREST OF A US BUSINESSMAN IN MOSCOW, THE TRIAL OF US CORRESPONDENTS, AND SOVIET ACTIVITIES IN AFRICA.

WHILE WE HAVE NO INTENTION OF INTERFERING IN SOVIET INTERNAL AFFAIRS, WE DEPLORE THE IMPRISONMENT OF SOVIET CITIZENS WHOSE ONLY CRIME IS TO SEEK THEIR GOVERNMENT'S COMPLIANCE WITH THE HELSINKI FINAL ACT. EQUALLY, WE DEPLORE SOVIET ACTIONS AGAINST US JOURNALISTS WHICH ARE INCONSISTENT WITH THE HELSINKI FINAL ACT AND APPEAR DESIGNED TO INTIMIDATE THE FOREIGN PRESS IN REPORTING FROM THE USSR.

DESPITE OUR RECENT PROBLEMS, HOWEVER, WE DO NOT SEEK A CONFRONTATION WITH MOSCOW, BUT LOOK FORWARD TO AN EVENTUAL IMPROVEMENT IN OUR OVERALL RELATIONS. WE HAVE CONTINUED TO NEGOTIATE WITH THE SOVIETS ON A RANGE OF ARMS CONTROL ISSUES WHICH WE FEEL ARE IN THE INTERESTS OF THE US AND A SAFER WORLD.

-- WE SEEK A STABLE RELATIONSHIP WITH THE SOVIET UNION WHICH OFFERS A BASIS FOR WIDENED COOPERATION AND PROTECTS

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THE VITAL INTERESTS OF OUR ALLIES. WE RECOGNIZE, HOWEVER, THAT SOME ASPECTS OF OUR RELATIONSHIP WILL REMAIN PRIMARILY COMPETITIVE FOR THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE.

-- WE ARE COMMITTED TO THE ACHIEVEMENT OF A STRATEGIC ARMS -IMITATION AGREEMENT WITH THE SOVIETS. NEGOTIATIONS HAVE BEEN PROLONGED BECAUSE WE ARE DEALING WITH COMPLEX ISSUES THAT VITALLY AFFECT THE NATIONAL SECURITY OF BOTH

SIDES. SOME ISSUES REMAIN TO BE RESOLVED, BUT PROSPECTS FOR AN AGREEMENT ARE GOOD.

-- WE HAVE LET THE SOVIETS KNOW THAT WE ARE DEEPLY CONCERNED BY THEIR MILITARY ADVENTURE IN AFRICA. SOVIET PROVISION OF MASSIVE AMOUNTS OF MODERN WEAPONRY AND TENS OF THOUSANDS OF CUBAN COMBAT TROOPS HAVE INCREASED THE LEVEL OF VIOLENCE AND PREVENTED THE PEACEFUL RESOLUTION OF REGIONAL DISPUTES. IT HAS ALSO EXACERBATED EAST-WEST TENSIONS AND CREATED A CLIMATE OF OPINION IN THE US WHICH MAKES IT INCREASINGLY DIFFICULT FOR US TO IMPROVE US-SOVIET RELATIONS.

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